

# San Diego State College

San Diego 15, California

January 5, 1956

Professor E.L. Tatum  
Dept. of Biological Sciences  
Stanford University  
Stanford, California

Dear Dr. Tatum:

I am writing with the hope that you might be able to help me obtain some mutant bacteria cultures for our genetics course.

We offer a three unit course at San Diego State College covering the principles of genetics with an emphasis on the different aspects of the field. In the laboratory, all of the students receive instruction in the handling of *Drosophila* and are provided an opportunity to carry out some of the classic crosses demonstrating linkage, independent assortment, crossing over, etc. Since time is a limitation and we offer no advanced courses in genetics, we have developed a series of projects for the students with different backgrounds in biology. These deal with such problems as gene action in *Neurospora*, the production of phenocopies, studies of epistasis and radiation effects in *Drosophila*, the analysis of human pedigrees, the preparation of chromosome smears, etc. We have found that a great deal more interest is engendered in the course when the student is allowed to work on a project more closely allied to his particular field. Therefore, we are continually attempting to supplement the series of projects with others which might also afford an introduction to research in genetics, however limited it might be.

I am presently interested in beginning a study on recombination in bacteria since we have the facilities for maintaining the cultures. I would like to obtain at least two mutant varieties (possibly those requiring leucine and methionine) plus the "wild type" of *E. coli*. If you or someone you might refer me to could supply this material, I would be very grateful. I would also appreciate the formulae for the basal media or a reference to them.

Yours truly,

*Frank J. Ratty*

Frank J. Ratty  
Instructor  
Department of Zoology

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Just:

May I turn this over  
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Thanks -

Ed